

# The Southwester

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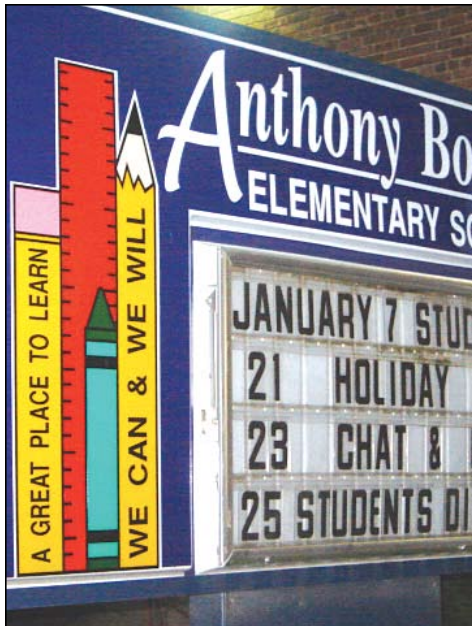
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FREE!

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## The Federal Department of Transportation in SE

The new headquarters building for the US Dept. of Transportation, at New Jersey and M St. SE, is the first new building completed on the site of the 44 acre former "brownfield" Southeast Federal Center on the Anacostia River.

The building comprises 1,350,000 square feet; in the former building, the number was about 1,300,000.

There are over 7,000 workers. It is close to the Navy Yard Metro with lots of eateries in the new buildings which abound the area. It has a Starbucks coffee shop open to the public, even on holidays, on that corner.



## Bowen Selected for Possible Closing in 2008

By Ron McBee

In December our community learned Anthony Bowen Elementary School (PreK through 6), 101 M Street SW, is one of 23 schools selected by Mayor Fenty and Michelle Rhee, Chancellor, DC Department of Public Schools (DCPS), to be closed in June 2008. The reason for the closings is the loss of DCPS student population over the past few years. DCPS stated it needs to consolidate to save money on operating costs. The selection of Anthony Bowen is not clear. At a January 9th meeting, Rhee was asked and agreed to provide to our Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells' office the background summary data for selecting Bowen. This will be the 3rd school in recent years in our community to be closed after Syphax ES and Van Ness ES. Many parents and individuals

*Continued on Page 7*

## Life After DoT

By Carole Early

A \$220 million makeover of the The Nassif Building, at 400 Seventh St. SW, former headquarters of

the Department of Transportation will retrofit it for future government tenants and put the 1.4 million-square-foot building back on the market. The name is being changed as well -- to **Constitution Center**.

Plans to close off the plaza area will

increase the building's size by about 80,000 square feet. This heightened level of security will make the Nassif Building eligible <http://dcmud.blogspot.com/search?q=Marina+View> for occupancy by all federal agencies except the **Department of Defense**, which needs even tighter security.

The exterior marble tiles, will be replaced with an all-glass facade. Energy efficiency will be enhanced with lighting controls, motion and daylight detectors in hallways, and natural light dims in rooms. A new heating, ventilating and air conditioning system will be installed. Renovation of the Nassif Building began after the Transportation Department moved out. The building should be ready for new tenants in January 2010.



## SW Neighborhood Assembly Monthly Meeting to Address Transportation Issues

Please join the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly at 7:30 PM on January 28, 2008 for its monthly community meeting. This month the meeting will be held in the sanctuary of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and will focus on transportation concerns in the Southwest neighborhood and the District. Director of the D.C. Department of Transportation, Emeka Moneme, has been

invited to address parking issues around the new ballpark and the metro fare hike, and Sam Young from the Deputy Mayor's office has been invited to discuss the new local bus line. We will also be joined by ANC Commissioner Ron McBee who will discuss the history and future of the Benjamin Banneker Park. Refreshments will be provided by Thelma Jones, Mary Kay Cosmetics.

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# Arena Stage at Crystal City



**A**rena Stage has opened its three-year home in The Crystal Forum next to Crystal City Marriott (NOT the Crystal Gateway Marriott a few blocks away) at 1801 Bell St. between 18th and 20th Streets.

It is easy to find if you arrive by Metro Blue and Yellow lines at Crystal City Metro Station and walk underground to the Forum. There are signs that help.

Drivers heading south on Highway One (Jefferson Davis Hwy) toward Alexandria will pass the 15th St. exit and get in the left hand turn lane to exit on 20th St. You will be on Bell St. immediately and on your left are two ramps down into parking below the Marriott Hotel - The left hand ramp is yours - with signs that say Arena Stage. It is free after 4 pm weekdays and all day Saturdays.

## Notice

My name is Carole G. Early. I used to be co-editor with Dale MacIver. Now, I reside out-of-town for most of the year. It is good to be in DC. When I return, I relieve Mr. MacIver of his job as editor, advertising chief, payroll department, etc. This way he can concentrate on the advertising aspect of the paper.

I was really excited by all of the construction & de-construction. Hence, the stories on what is going on. I want to thank everyone who supplied "the Southwester" with stories. Keep it up.

## The Southwester

Mail to: [thesouthwester@yahoo.com](mailto:thesouthwester@yahoo.com)

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[thesouthwester@yahoo.com](mailto:thesouthwester@yahoo.com)

### Southwester Staff

Dale MacIver, Editor

Lida Churchville, Thelma Jones, Ron McBee,  
Barbara Murray, Olga Woltman  
and Tanetta Isler, Reporters  
Herbert Holmes, Production Assistant  
Electronic Ink, Service Bureau  
Silver Communications, Printer

**Deadline for next edition, ads or text:**  
**Wednesday, February 6, 2008.**

### Display Advertising Rates

(New rates effective with May 2007 issue)

The Southwester carries four columns, each 2½" wide. Each page has a printed area of 10 x 13¾".

#### Black and White

Sixteenth page (2½ x 3 7/16")	\$ 50
Eighth page (2½ x 6 7/8")	\$ 90
Quarter page (5 x 6 7/8")	\$170
Half page (10 x 6 7/8")	\$300
Full page (10 x 13¾")	\$550

The Southwester has no classified ads.

#### Color

In addition to the prices listed above, full process color ads pay an additional \$100 for a half page or smaller and \$200 additional for a full page.

**Ad Deadline: Wednesday, February 6, 2008**

## D.C. Public Library's Diane Henry



Diane Henry has been working for the DC Public Library for 40 years plus 6 months. She has been the head librarian at the SW Branch since 2005. Prior to coming here she was at the Anacostia Library, which was closed for repairs. While Diane was born and grew up in Anacostia, her parents courted here in SW on 4 1/2 Street (now 4th Street). Her mother worked at the well known Levy's Department (here in SW) and her Dad worked at the Navy Yard. She is a graduate of Drexel's library school in Philadelphia. She feels that her greatest achievement since being here was convincing "Downtown" to buy DVDs for SW. This made our branch the first to receive them. Also they have gotten more and new computers for use by patrons. Diane has also worked with SWNA's History Task Force. Since being here, there has been a huge downward population change with the closing of WaterFront Mall. She remarked that she has enjoyed her time here and that there are some very dedicated library users here in Southwest.

## Southwest Community Calendar Jan. 19 - Feb. 29

**SAT. JAN. 19,** Breakfast at Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I St., SW, 9-11 am, \$5.00, (across from the SW library)

**MON. JAN. 21** Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Holiday

**THURS. JAN. 24** NARFE, SW Library, 3rd & K St., SW, 12:30 pm

**MON. JAN. 28,** SWNA Public meeting, St. Augustine's, 7th & M St., SW 7:30

**TUES., JAN. 29,** SW Chamber Music, St. Augustine's, 6th & Maine St., 7:30

**WED., JAN. 30,** Arena Stage groundbreaking ceremony at 6th & Maine St., SW, 10:00am

**TUES. FEB. 5,** Citizens Advisory Council, Police Hdqtrs., 415-4th St., SW, 7 pm

**SAT. FEB. 9** Ballpark Job Fair, King-Greenleaf Rec. Center, 1st & N St. SW, 10:00am - 2:00pm.

**MON., FEB., 11** ANC Monthly meeting, St. Augustine's, 6th & M St., SW, 7 pm

**TUES. FEB. 12,** DC Presidential primary election

**WED. FEB. 13** a celebration of February's Black History Month, "Art & Spirit" coffeehouse program at 7 p.m. in the St. Augustine's sanctuary, 600 M Street, SW (across from Arena Stage) in lieu of SWNA monthly meeting.

**THURS. FEB. 14** Councilmember Tommy Wells monthly "office hours" in SW, cafeteria of Channel Inn, 7th & Water St., SW, 8:00-9:30 am, Talk to the council member and his staff.

**MON. FEB 18** President's Day Holiday

**WED. FEB. 20th** AARP, River Park, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW, 12 noon

**THURS. FEB. 21,** Police PSA public

meeting, Harbour Square, 7 pm

**SAT. FEB. 23** Ballpark Job Fair, King-Greenleaf Rec. Center, 1st & N St. SW, 9am

**MON. FEB. 25,** no SWNA Public meeting this month

**THURS. FEB. 28th** NARFE, SW Library, 3rd & K St., SW, 12:30 pm

## WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

**KOMEN TOASTMASTERS** - First & Third Sat., S.W. Library, 10 am.

**FIL-AM TOASTMASTERS** - Second & Fourth Wed., S.W. Library, 6:15 pm.

**SCHOOL ST. TOASTMASTERS** - Every Tues., 400 Virginia Ave. S.W., Room 488 - noon.

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS Club** - First & Third Wed., Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block of I (Eye) St. S.W., 7 pm 202-291-6229.

**S.W. KIWANIS** - First & Third Mon., Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I St. S.W., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

**NEW SOUTHWEST TOASTMASTERS** - Every Wed. GSA Bldg - 7th & D St. S.W., Room 5009 (inside cafeteria), noon.

**LABYRINTH WALK** - First & Third Wed., Westminster Church, 4th & I St., SW, 8-9:30 pm preceded by Yoga Nidra at 7:00 pm. on the first Wed. & Tai Chi at 7 pm on second, third & fourth Wed.

**WEDNESDAYS AT 3 pm** - Practice GED test - free - takes 4-1/2 hrs; walk in at SW Library, between 3rd & 4th St., between I (Eye) and K SW, second floor; picture ID required. 727-6976 or 727-1616 (M, T, Th, F).

Please submit calendar items for March events to voice mail - 202-554-8560 or by email to [thesouthwester@yahoo.com](mailto:thesouthwester@yahoo.com) or by US mail to PO Box 70131 by Wednesday, February 6.

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# Inaugural Graduation for Computer-for-Kids Training Program

By Thelma Jones,  
Youth Activities Task Force

With over 30 people in attendance, the inaugural graduation for the "Computer-for-Kids" Computer Training Program was a resounding success. It took place at the Syphax Community Center on Saturday, December 15.

YATF Interim Chairperson Rick Barbach warmly welcomed the audience.

Both volunteer instructors, Gerald Brown and LaShawn Williams gave inspiring remarks that touched the audience. Brown reminded the parents/guardians about the importance of their support and involvement in ensuring that the students attended and actively participated in the computer training program. Williams told a wonderful anecdote about the program's little poster child Ebony Hansberry, 6, who said that she wanted to learn how to use the computers so that "I can teach my grandmother how to use it." Graduating students were awarded a computer to take home on the condition that they teach other members of their household what they've learned and periodically participate in a survey on the use of the computers.

Another program highlight was the wonderful sit-down luncheon (Caribbean style chicken and rice that was yum, yum) for the graduates and the instructors provided compliments of Ken LaCruise,



Ken LaCruise's meal being enjoyed by the class.

Island Style Caterers. LaCruise commented on how pleased he was to support the program and noticed with delight the kids' overall behavior and mannerism.

Graduates included Dayja Bracey, Tania Brown, Rayvon Gaines, Ebony Hansberry, Essence Hansberry, Jerome Harrison, Asha Marshall, Nicholas Moses, Maurice Spencer, Daquan Wade, Karita Watkins, Noel Watkins, and Brenda Wilson. Brown, Bracey, the Hansberrys, and Wilson were praised and awarded special recognition for perfect attendance. Goody bags for each graduate were provided compliments of YATF and Thelma D. Jones, Independent Beauty Consultant, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc.

An effort of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force in partnership with James Creek Resident Council/Friendship House,

King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, The Cavaliers and First Time Computers, the eight-week "Computer-for-Kids" Training Program was held at James Creek Resident Council and King-Greenleaf Recreation Center. Created to help reduce the digital divide among youth in Southwest (zip code 20024) and near Southeast, the computer program is the first of its kind in the community and is slated to be a model for ongoing computer classes in the targeted areas.

Special thanks to Christine Spencer, Joyce Carey, Perry Klein, Ron McBee, and River Park Mutual Homes. Special thanks also to Washington Cable and First Time Computers for their generous support in providing the overall technical coordination and management in collecting, securing and delivering the donated computers.



Ebony Hansberry with one of the instructors, LaShawn Williams



Tania Brown with the other instructor, Gerald Brown

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## SAT Deadlines Jan. 29, Apr. 1, May 6

The final three chances to take the SAT college admissions test are Mar. 1, May 3 and June 7. Deadlines for applying are about one month before the test dates.

High school juniors should take the test as a try-out, with plans to take it again in the fall of their senior year.

Applications can be filled in and printed out by going online to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Application fees can be paid by US mail or online by credit card.

The fee is \$43 for the basic SAT reasoning test.

## Free Parking at RFK; Shuttle Buses to Games

The Nationals are contracting with the DC government, which owns RFK and its parking lots, for free parking for baseball ticket holders. Shuttle buses from RFK will exit the 395 SE/SW Freeway at 9<sup>th</sup> St. SE, travel one block west on I (Eye) St. SE, go south on 8<sup>th</sup> St. SE to L St. SE, west to 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, south to M St. and drop off fans in front of the DOT building, for their two or more block walk to the ballpark.

For week night games the shuttles may drop off on L St. and return to RFK on Virginia Ave. SE to avoid traffic on M St. SE. Patrons would have to walk an extra block.

## Seminar on Small Business Licenses

How to apply to do business with the D.C. government by being a "Certified Business Enterprise," will be explained at free two-hour seminars at the DC Main Public Library, 9th and G St. NW across from the Verizon/Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro on 9th St. NW on Thurs. evening Jan. 24 and Feb. 21 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, and on Thurs. afternoon Feb. 7 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

The seminars will be on the first floor in the Business/Technology Section. Additional one-on-one assistance will be offered at no cost. The telephone there is 727-3900.

Later courses at \$25 each will deal with specific needs, according to Southeastern University. More information is on [www.Southeastern.edu](http://www.Southeastern.edu).

## Celebrate Black History Month at St. Augustine's "Art & Sprit" Evening Coffeehouse Program

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) are co-sponsoring a celebration of February's Black History Month. Please join us for a free "Art & Sprit" coffeehouse program on Wednesday, February 13 beginning at 7 p.m. in the St. Augustine's sanctuary, located at 600 M Street, SW (across from Arena Stage). Well-known local artists, Doris Thomas (The Serenity Players) and Michael Mack (Star Trek: The Next Generation) will present readings of four sermons from James Weldon Johnson's *God's Trombones*, a classic book about the lyrical power and soul-stirring fire of the Black religious tradition.

The evening will begin with per-

formances from the guest artists and will be followed by a facilitated Q and A discussion with the audience. Coffee, tea, and desserts will be available throughout the evening.

The Art & Spirit coffeehouse series showcases local artists in their various mediums as they express the joy of creating in the spirit, according to the Rev. Martha Clark, Priest-in-Charge at St. Augustine's. Donations will be accepted to help provide honorariums for the guest artists.

This event will replace SWNA's February meeting. For more information on the Art & Spirit Coffeehouse programs and February's guest artists, please visit [www.staugustinedc.org](http://www.staugustinedc.org) or call Rev. Clark at 202-554-3222.

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# **Right on schedule...**



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**halfstreet**

Monument Realty would like to thank the Southwest/Near Southeast DC neighborhood for its patience during the renovation of the Navy Yard Metro Station. We are pleased to announce that our team has met the milestone of delivering the Navy Yard Metro to WMATA, keeping construction on schedule.

***Congratulations and thanks to our partners!***

**Monument Realty**





## Ann's Beauty Supply Shop

Has moved to 125 L St. SE,  
a block from the Navy Yard  
Metro New Jersey Ave. stop,  
behind the church.

**202-554-5588**



## Ballpark Jobs Fair Feb. 9, Feb. 23 at KGL

D.C. residents will have first chance for jobs at National baseball games and for cleanup after. Dozens of tables will be set up in the King Greenleaf Rec Center on two Saturdays in February to take applications. Four or five thousand applicants are expected.



Instructions on meters on Adams Morgan's 18<sup>th</sup> St. NW and Columbia Rd. NW.



## ATTENTION

### DRIVER AND VEHICLE SERVICES CUSTOMERS

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Changes at Georgetown and Brentwood Service Centers

### **NEW** Brentwood Service Center - Hours of Operation

#### **Northeast**

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1233 Brentwood Road, NE

Washington, DC 20018

**Monday - Friday**

**Hours of Operation**

**10:15 am - 6:00 pm**

### **NEW** Georgetown Park Mall Service Center - Days of Operation

#### **Northwest**

Georgetown Park Mall Service Center

3222 M Street, NW - Lower Level

Washington, DC 20007

**Days of Operation**

**Tuesday - Saturday**

**8:15 am - 4:00 pm**

\*\* The Southwest Service Center (95 M Street, SW) and the Georgetown Service Center (Georgetown Park Mall) are always **CLOSED** on **MONDAYS**.

**Non-US Citizens must visit the Georgetown Service Center for identification cards or driver licenses.**

For Hours of Operation and Locations of our other service centers, Road Test Lot, CDL Office, Adjudication Services and the SW Inspection Station, please visit [www.dmv.dc.gov](http://www.dmv.dc.gov) or call 202-727-5000.

## Meetings on New Parking Meters, Jan. 22, 23

Councilmember Tommy Wells plan for new parking meters will get public airings on Wed. Jan. 22 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St. SW, 6:30-8:00 pm, and on Thurs. Jan. 23 at Brent Elementary School, 301 No. Carolina Ave. SE, 6:30-8:00 pm.

They are already being used on a few streets in Georgetown and Adams Morgan. There parking is 50 cents or a dollar an hour for a maximum of two hours, Mon.-Fri., 9:30 am to 6:30 pm. There is not a meter for each parking space, but one for half a block or a block. YOU MUST Print out a receipt and put it inside the passenger side on the dashboard so the Meter Maids with electronic scanners can read the time limit you have paid for and decide whether to ticket you.

In SW and SE the price for parking at these meters will be much higher – as much as \$35 for four hours during ball games at the new ballpark.





## BOWEN

From p. 1

are concerned and outraged about the closing of this centrally located school in our community.

While Anthony Bowen ES is named after a son of SW (became a free man; founded the first African American YMCA; his home at 900 E Street SW served as part of the underground railroad; and convinced Abraham Lincoln to use African American soldiers in the Civil War), it is more than “brick and mortar” or the legacy of this remarkable African American. The school children will be transferred to Amidon ES, 401 I Street SW (located near Jefferson Junior High School) and approximately 8 blocks from Bowen. For a “walkable/livable community” this means the children will have to walk across several major arterial streets including the soon to be opened 4th Street. Also the character of the traffic flow on our streets will drastically change with more intense/heavier traffic with the completion of the planned development projects in our Near SE/SW area and the opening of the Stadium in less than 80 days. Safety is a major concern and problem!

Many people feel both schools are needed, especially when one considers the 10,000 plus new residential units in the Near SE/ SW that will be built over the

next 5-8 years. The combined schools do not leave any space for new enrollment and, in fact, if both schools were combined today the total of 510 students far exceeds the capacity of either school.

Academically both schools are almost equal when looking at the DCPS BAS (Basic Aptitude Scores) test data from 2006 – Bowen Reading 38.5 /Math 27; Amidon Reading 40/Math 28.3. Ms Almata Hawkins, Bowen’s principal, and dedicated staff have worked hard and show a continued increasing trend in their student proficiency test scores over the past three years. They have fostered a family atmosphere for the students and parents. Bowen has a counselor, special education coordinator, reading coach as well as a librarian, music teacher, physical education instructor, art teacher, and technology coordinator. Both schools have a PreK program. Rhee indicated they hope to have the reorganization without a major staff loss but can not assure the teachers will follow their students.

Schools are about team work and community – not just the children, staff, or parents. Both schools provide an after school program. Several seniors from 100 M Street participate at Bowen on a daily basis. Both schools have tutoring and mentoring programs staffed by over 100 volunteers coming from our SW community, including Ft. McNair and the Department of Motor Vehicles. Bowen

also serves as a “safe house” for all special education students in DC/VA/MD.

Enrollment numbers from DCPS shows student capacity for Bowen and Amidon to be 281 and 438 respectively; Bowen has 71,900 sq ft and Amidon with 70,800 sq ft (the difference in capacity maybe the open classrooms at Bowen). Amidon has the 3rd grade Appletree Learning Charter School housed in it. The In-Boundary/Out-Boundary DCPS 2006 student numbers are 222/10 for Bowen and 40/244 for Amidon. This means 222 students and families in SW will be directly affected with the closing of Bowen.

Also at stake with Anthony Bowen’s closing is the loss of our Boys & Girls Club #4. It is a core element of services for our youth and a part of the fabric of our community. New Branch Director, Beth Yousef, is focusing on the 5 Principles of the Boys & Girls Club of American with academic preparedness targeted through their “power hour” before kids can participate in games or sports.

Councilmember Tommy Wells is looking at the transition of Bowen to Amidon. At the January 9th Ward 6 meeting, Rhee indicated DCPS will review their decision on selecting Bowen to close. A local meeting with the Mayor and Rhee will be held at Amidon ES on January 17 starting at 6PM about Bowen.

## Games Start First Season

Nationals and DC Dept. of Transportation traffic planners are thankful that the first two games — when they can try out their parking and traffic plans — will be on a weekend (March 29 & 30), not week day evenings when conflict with rush hour traffic will be the worst.

After that there will be four evening games in the first regular home stand of six games against Florida and Atlanta, starting Mon. Apr. 7 at 7:10 pm.



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[www.appletreeinstitute.org/projects/aelpcs](http://www.appletreeinstitute.org/projects/aelpcs)

# 3- & 4- year old openings

Open House Dates: Fri. Jan 18 9:15-10 am; Weds. Feb 6 4:45-5:30 pm; Mon. Mar 3 9:15-10am



# Swing. Sizzle. Soul.

## ELLA

book by Jeffrey Hatcher / conceived by Rob Ruggiero & Dyke Garrison / musical direction and arrangements by Danny Holgate / directed by Rob Ruggiero  
Now through February 24, 2008

This musical, the first production at Arena's temporary home in Crystal City, takes you inside the heart and soul of the First Lady of Song – Ella Fitzgerald, played by Tina Fabrique (*The Women of Brewster Place*).

**"You get a feel for the remarkable instrument of the great jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald... mighty scat-isfying."** – Peter Marks, *The Washington Post*

**"The liveness of Miss Fabrique's powerhouse vocals is reason enough to see *Ella*"**  
– Jayne Blanchard, *The Washington Times*

**"an extraordinary recreation of an extraordinary talent"** – Brad Hathaway, *Potomac Stages*

Photo of Tina Fabrique by Frank Aura



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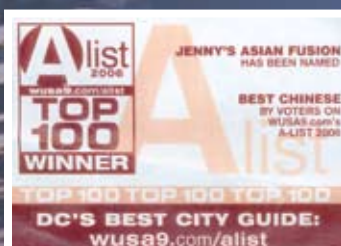
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